

### **REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, and 4-11 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 8 are amended, and claims 9-11 are added. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

### **Reasons for Entry of Amendments**

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Reply was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that it appears that the Examiner has not performed a full and complete examination of each and every claim as previously presented.

### **Examiner Interview**

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

**Amendments to Independent Claim 1**

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a resin tube-equipped quick connector, including *inter alia* "each of the first and second (plurality of) annular projections has substantially the same outer diameter."

Support for the novel features of independent claims 1 and 8, as amended, can be found, for example, in FIG. 4 of the original application.

FIGS. 1 and 3 of Nishiyama et al. merely disclose that a diameter of one annular projection, which is closer to a distal end (left side in the Figures) of an insert portion 6, is larger than that of another annular projection, which is closer to a root (right side in the Figures) of the insert portion 6.

In contrast, the claimed invention described at FIG. 4 discloses that two annular projections 48 provided on the press-fitting portion 28 have the same outer diameter d5.

At least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 8 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Nishiyama et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 8 is in condition for allowance.

**Dependent Claims**

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 6 has been amended, and dependent claims 9-11 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the present invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are respectfully requested.

*Application No. 10/583,966*  
*Amendment dated March 13, 2009*  
*Reply to Office Action of December 17, 2008*

*Docket No. 0649-1323PUS1*  
*Art Unit: 3679*  
*Page 11 of 11*

**CONCLUSION**

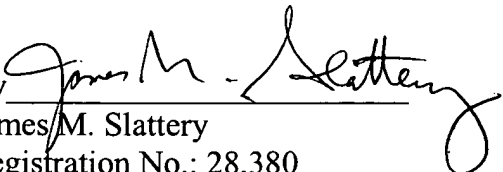
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

**Dated: March 13, 2009**

Respectfully submitted,

By   
James M. Slattery  
Registration No.: 28,380  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road  
Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant

JMS/CTT/amm

